

Special message from the Governor :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
AUSTIN, August 15, 1870.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :

Being informed by your joint committee that you are about to adjourn *sine die*, and that you desire to know whether I have any further communication to make before adjournment.

I have to state that a large number of bills have been presented for my examination, on the very eve of your adjournment, amounting on Saturday and to-day to the total of one hundred and fifty-six.

I have given these bills the best examination possible under the circumstances, but the limited time has rendered this examination very hasty and unsatisfactory to myself. I have therefore confined my approval to such public and private bills as appeared in this hasty examination least objectionable, and this has necessarily caused a number of acts to remain unsigned, and thereby fail to become

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laws by operation of the constitution. Among these there are but few general statutes, the great majority being private bills. Some of them may be meritorious, and in such cases the subject may again come before you at your next session, if the necessity for them be not obviated by future general laws bearing thereon.

You will perceive that I have assumed the proper construction of section twenty-five, article four, of the constitution to be, that "bills must be presented to the Governor soon enough to allow him for the examination thereof one clear day (exclusive of Sunday) previous to the day of adjournment." This construction I believe to be correct by analogy; but in any event, it is the safe one on the ground of public policy, as it allows a more reasonable time for the examination of the multitude of bills that are usually hurried through at the last moment.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS,  
Governor.